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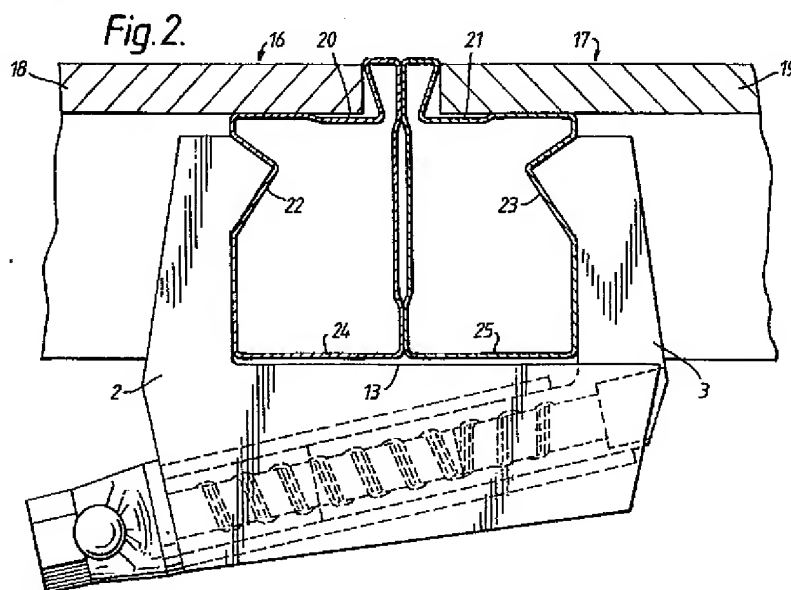
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54 Panel clamp.

57 A clamp intended for clamping formwork panels (16,17) consists of a body (1,31) which supports a first fixed clamping element (2,32) and which supports a second movable clamping element (3,33). The clamping element (3,33) may be moved from a

released position to a clamping position. The body defines a datum plane (13,45) between the clamping elements (2,3,32,33), the movable clamping elements (3,33) move in a direction which is inclined at an angle to that datum plane (13,45).



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The present invention relates to a panel clamp and more particularly relates to a panel clamp adapted to be used to secure together formwork panels.

It has been proposed previously to provide panels which can be assembled together to create a formwork system. Typically such a panel consists of a thick plywood sheet which is mounted on a metal framework. The panels may be as large as 3 metres by 2.4 metres, and may have a weight, including the plywood, of up to 425 kilograms.

It is necessary to clamp the panels together when a large formwork system is being created, and the present invention seeks to provide an improved clamp for that purpose.

According to this invention there is provided a clamp for clamping formwork panels, the clamp comprising a body supporting a fixed clamping element and supporting a movable clamping element, means being provided to move the movable clamping element from a released position to a clamping position, the body defining a datum plane being defined between the clamping elements, the movable clamping element moving in a direction which is inclined at an angle to the datum plane.

Preferably the body defines a channel inclined to the datum plane, the movable clamping element having a portion adapted to be slidably received within the channel, there being a threaded bolt located in the channel and received within a threaded bore defined within that part of the clamping element which is slidably received within the channel, means being provided to rotate the bolt.

Conveniently the body is defined by two spaced apart substantially parallel first plates, and two transversely extending spaced apart second plates which, together with the first plates define said inclined channel.

Preferably the edges of said first plates define the datum plane.

Alternatively plates which extend across the upper edges of the said first plates define the datum plane.

Preferably the said fixed clamping element is adapted to be mounted in a selected position.

Conveniently the said fixed clamp is provided with a shoe adapted to extend between the said first plates, a bolt being provided adapted to extend through an aperture formed in the shoe and a selected pair of coaligned apertures formed in the said first plates.

In order that the invention may be more readily understood, and so that further features thereof may be appreciated, the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a clamp in accordance with the invention with parts cut-

away for the sake of clarity of illustration.

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view through two panels joined by the clamp of Figure 1, illustrating the clamp in position, and

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of a modified embodiment of a clamp in accordance with the invention.

Referring initially to Figure 1 of the accompanying drawings a clamp comprises a main body part 1 which carries a fixed jaw 2, and a movable jaw 3 which is movably mounted on the body 1.

Considering the clamp in the orientation illustrated in Figure 1 the body 1 comprises two substantially vertical spaced apart plates 4, 5. Two further plates 6, 7 extend transversely between the vertical plates 4, 5, the plates 6, 7 being located at an angle to the horizontal and thus defining between them, and between the vertical plates 4 and 5, an inclined passage 8. The lower end of the inclined passage 8 terminates at a position beneath the fixed jaw 2, which is welded in position between the upper parts of the vertical plates 4 and 5. A threaded bolt 9 is provided which extends from the lower end of the passage 8, axially of the passage. The bolt terminates with a "wing" fitting 10 at the end of the passage 8.

The moveable jaw 3 is provided with a substantially square cross-section to portion 11 which is slidably received within the passage 8. This portion 11 is provided with a threaded bore 12 therethrough which receives the end of the threaded bolt 9. It will be appreciated that by rotating the "wing" 10 provided on the bolt, the movable jaw 3 may be moved towards or away from the jaw 2.

The upper edges of the parallel walls 4 and 5 define a datum plane 13. The jaw 3 moves towards the jaw 2 in a direction which is inclined to the datum plane 13 by an angle equal to the angle of inclination of the passage 8.

The jaw 2 and the jaw 3 are each provided with a protrusion 14, 15, of pointed form, on the part of the jaw facing the opposed jaw.

As can be seen most clearly from Figure 2, the clamp of Figure 1 is intended to be utilised to secure together two formwork panels 16, 17 each of which is provided with a front face of, for example, plywood 18, 19 and a peripheral hollow frame member 20, 21. It is to be observed that each frame member 20, 21 defines an inwardly recessed side portion 22, 23, on the side of the frame member directed away from the peripheral edge of the frame. Each recessed portion 22, 23 is dimensioned and located to receive the inwardly directed pointed portions 14, 15 provided on the jaws 2, 3 of the clamp when the front rear faces 24, 25 of the frame members 20, 21 are substantially aligned with the datum plane 13.

Thus, in utilising the clamp of Figure 1 to secure together two panels as shown in Figure 2 the bolt is operated so that the movable jaw 3 is moved to a release position in which it is separated from the fixed jaw 2. The jaw 2 is located in position against the frame member 20, and the jaw element 3 is then caused to engage the frame member 21. The "wing" is then turned to draw the jaw 3 towards the jaw 2 and down towards the datum plane 13. Thus the movable jaw 3 is moved towards a clamping position. This movement ensures that the panels are brought into side-by-side engagement with the rear faces 24, 25 of the frame members 20, 21 substantially aligned adjacent the datum plane 13, with the consequent result that the front faces of the plywood panels 18 and 19 are substantially aligned. When the form is to be dismantled the movable jaw 3 is again moved to the release position, enabling the panels to be separated.

Figure 3 illustrates a modified embodiment of the invention, which is an aligning clamp. This embodiment of the invention comprises a body 31 having a substantially fixed jaw 32 and a movable jaw 33. The body 31 is formed of two spaced apart parallel plates 34, 35, and extending between these plates are two inclined plates 36, 37 which together form an inclined passage 38. A threaded bolt 39 extends axially of the passage 38 and terminates with an exposed "wing" portion 40.

The movable jaw 33 has a rectangular sectioned portion 41 which is slidably received within the passage 38. The portion 41 defines a threaded bore, (equivalent to the bore 12) which receives the end of the threaded bolt.

The relatively fixed jaw 32 is mounted on a shoe 42 which projects between the plates 34 and 35. A transverse bore is provided in the shoe 42 adapted to receive a bolt 43 which passes through a pair of coaligned apertures 44 provided in the walls 34 and 35. A number of pairs of apertures 44 are provided and it is thus to be appreciated that the shoe 42 may be positioned in alternate selected positions, respectively altering the distance between the relatively fixed jaw 32 and the movable jaw 33.

The shoe 42 incorporates a planar plate 45 which bridges across the top of the side walls 34 and 35 to establish the datum plane. At the ends of the body 31 further transverse plates 46 and 47 are provided which extend across the side walls 34 and 35, again lying in the datum plane.

It can be seen that the jaw members 32, 33 in the embodiment of Figure 3 have the same general configuration as jaw members illustrated in the embodiment of Figure 1, with each jaw being provided with a protrusion of generally pointed form on the part of the jaw facing the opposed jaw.

The clamp of Figure 3 may be used to coalign panels when they are interconnected. The jaws 32 and 33 will engage with the peripheral frame members of the panel, in a manner similar to that described with the embodiment of Figure 1. However, when the clamp has been tightened so that the panels are in position, parts of the panels will engage the plates 46 and 47 provided at the ends of the elongate body 31, which thus serve to align the panels.

It is to be appreciated that the position of the substantially fixed jaw 32 can be adjusted. This permits an infill of a selected size to be located between two adjacent panels which are clamped together using the clamp. This may be of significant value, especially if the form that is to be created has a dimension which is not equal to a multiple of the widths of the available panels. Thus a wood infill may be located between two adjacent panels which are securely clamped together by the clamp of Figure 3.

It is to be appreciated that since the threaded bolt extends into the threaded bore formed in the portion of the movable jaw which is received within the inclined channel defined by the body member, there is virtually no risk of the bolt becoming fouled by cement.

The described clamps are simple to fabricate, easy to operate, and reliable in use.

The features disclosed in the foregoing description, in the following claims and/or in the accompanying drawings can both separately and in any combination thereof, be material for realising the invention in diverse forms thereof.

Claims

1. A clamp for clamping formwork panels, the clamp comprising a body supporting a fixed clamping element and supporting a movable clamping element, means being provided to move the movable clamping element from a released position to a clamping position, the body defining a datum plane between the clamping elements, the movable clamping element moving in a direction which is inclined at an angle to the datum plane.
2. A clamp according to Claim 1 wherein the body defines a channel inclined to the datum plane, the movable clamping element having a portion adapted to be slidably received within the channel, therebeing a threaded bolt located in the channel and received within a threaded bore defined within that part of the clamping element which is slidably received within the channel, means being provided to rotate the bolt.

3. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the body is defined by two spaced apart substantially parallel first plates, and two transversely extending spaced apart second plates which, together with the first plates define said inclined channel. 5
4. A clamp according to Claim 3 wherein the edges of said first plates define the datum plane. 10
5. A clamp according to Claim 3 wherein plates which extend across the upper edges of the said first plates define the datum plane. 15
6. A clamp according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the said fixed clamping element is adapted to be mounted in a selected position. 20
7. A clamp according to Claim 6 wherein the said fixed clamp is provided with a shoe adapted to extend between the said first plates, a bolt being provided adapted to extend through a aperture formed in the shoe and a selected pair of coaligned apertures formed in the said first plates. 25

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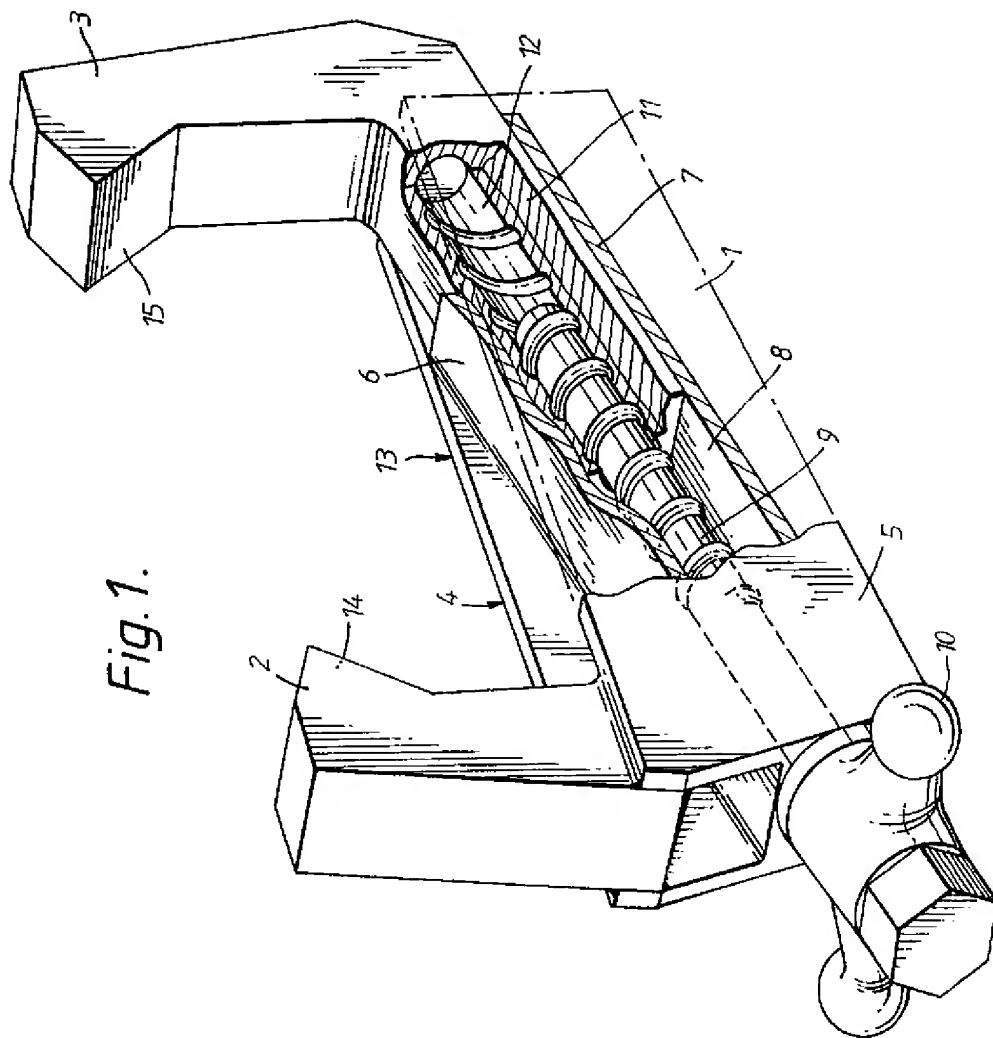
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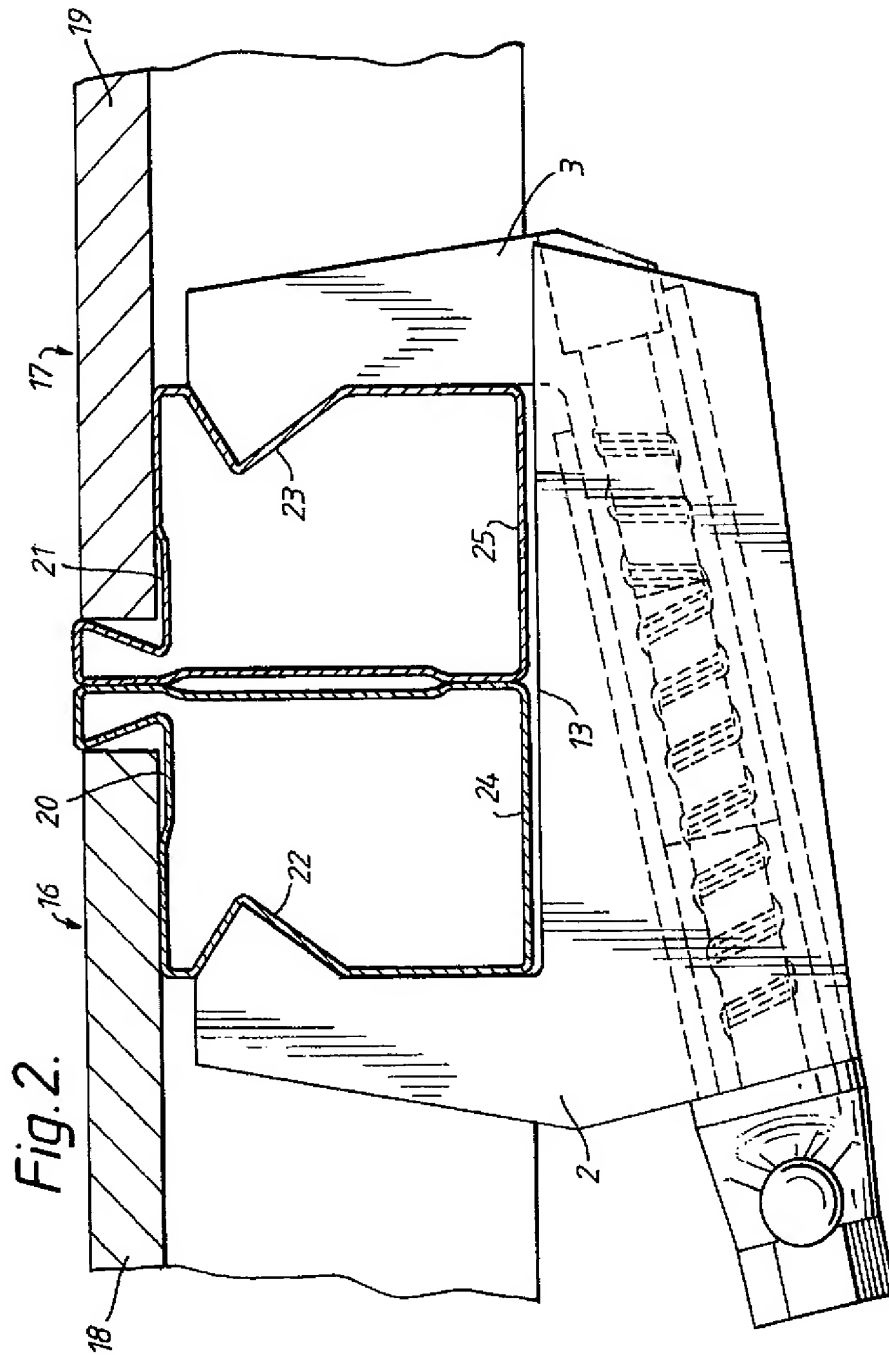
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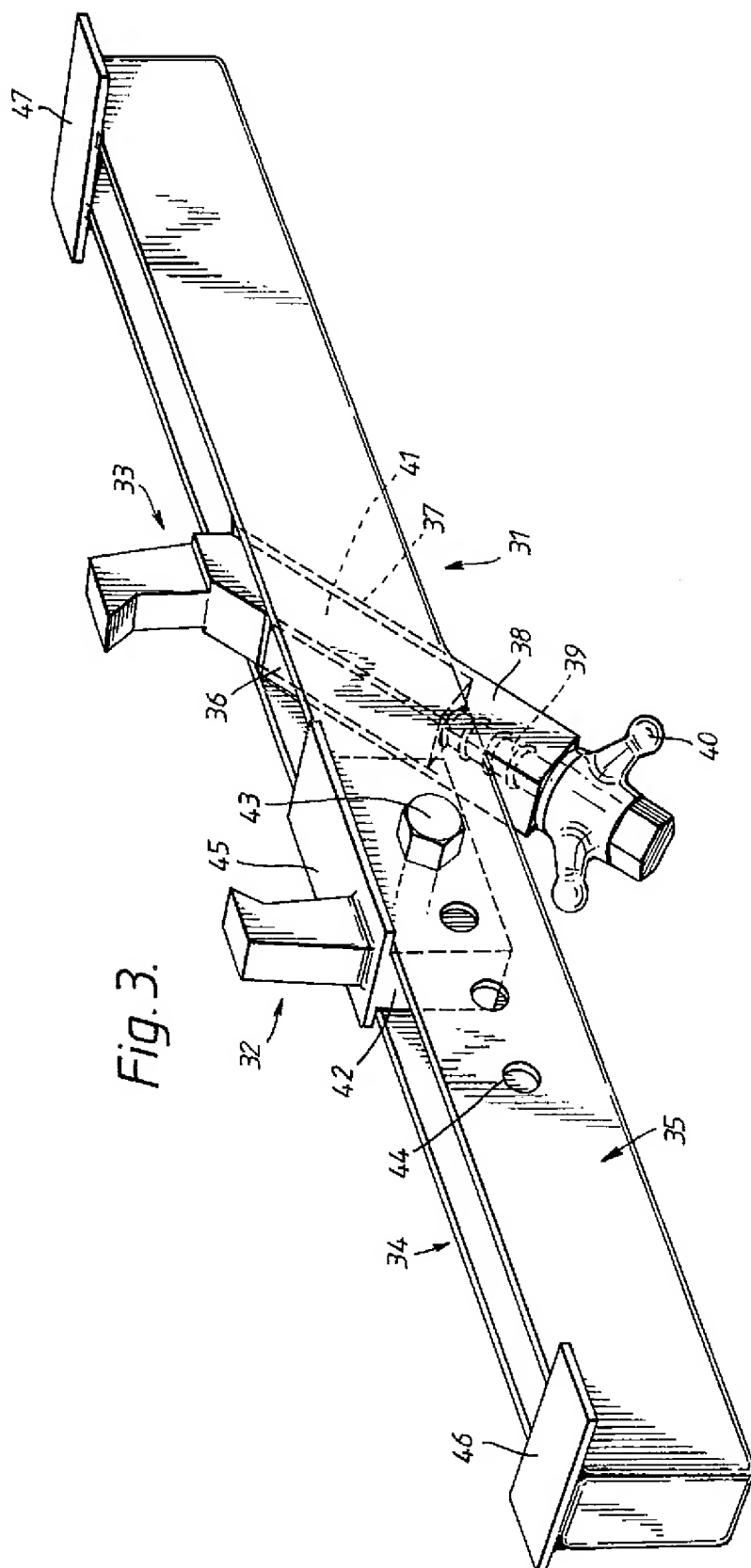
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 93 10 0229

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
A	DE-A-3 530 854 (SCHLIEPHACKE) * column 5, line 12 - line 64; figure 5 * ---	1,2	F16B2/12 E04G17/04 //B25B1/10
A	US-A-3 948 503 (WEBER) * column 5, line 27 - line 58; figures 21,22 * ---	1	
A	DE-A-3 517 304 (HÜNNEBECK GMBH) * column 3, line 65 - column 5, line 4; figures 1-4 * -----	1,2	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			F16B E04G B25B
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 01 APRIL 1993	Examiner CALAMIDA G.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	